

Notes from the meeting of the
Community Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) For the Cancer Cluster Investigation
December 15, 2010
Frederick County Health Department

Reviewed TAC purpose:

TAC Purpose: **a).** To provide assistance in determining what questions should be examined regarding cancer numbers – geographic region, time period, types of cancers, etc. and then and **b).** To identify options for how to answer the question(s)/hypothesis(es).

- I. Introductions
D. Blank; B. Brookmyer; J. Hahn; G. Pauly; J. Sawitzke; R. Watkins; J. Wolfe; P. Wolfe. L. Goldman availability change and subsequent resignation.
- II. Review of Notes from December 1 meeting
Addition of B Roberson as present.
- III. Review of Working Hypothesis
There is an increased rate of cancers (gather data on all, possibly narrow down later based on confirmed exposures) within a ¼ mile radius around Ft. Detrick (Area A and B). No changes noted.
- IV. Potential Data Sources
 - a. Population data – When did zip codes change in the area of interest? When did census tracts change? See attached chart of pros and cons of proposed data sources
 - b. Street tour of ¼ mile radius not done
 - c. SEER data request – still pending
 - d. Nancy Noble study contact – it was reported that she indicated interest in and plan to contact professor
 - e. KRF data – it was reported that population data not yet identified for corresponding years of cancer cases reported and no age adjustment performed to allow for comparison of annual incidence rate
- V. Review of Data Needed to Answer Hypothesis
 - a. Ideal data source suggested – Medical record review (assumes still available and access granted and resources available to perform) – date of birth, type of cancer, pathology report, zip code, precise address coupled with knowing for each year the numbers in each household on that street/in that zip code area/in that census tract area
- VI. Next Steps
 - a. Next Meeting: January 12 and Homework = continue follow-up last meeting's homework